Propagation of Internet Education

*3. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to propagate internet education, considering the vast potentiality of information technology;

(b) whether Government have any plans to set any Authority/ company exclusively for the purpose and launch centrally sponsored schemes for states; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to provide computer/computer education in States?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Government have been taking initiatives from time to time for promoting Internet based education. This includes online learning by supporting a Virtual Campus Initiative at Indira Gandhi National Open University for a One Year Post-Graduate Diploma Course in Information Technology. The Government is also funding the development of Web-based/Multi-media courseware at two HTs at Delhi and Kanpur and the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Existing Engineering Colleges and Universities offer a range of formal courses in the area of computer sciences, electronics and information technology. Department of Electronics Accreditation Computer Courses (DOEACC), a society set up under the aegis of Ministry of Information Technology and the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) conducts four levels of courses for the non-formal sector at a national level. Similarly, two societies of Ministry of Information Technology, namely, Centre for Electronics Design & Technology of India (CEDTI) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) have launched nationwide franchising schemes to promote IT Education in this country.